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derangement, it was shown by Dr. Robert Jones in the subsequent discussion that the general death-rate for the insane in hospitals is six times that of the normal population. This difference is naturally greatest at the earliest age periods, and the insane rate is only twice that for normal persons, over 85. A most suggestive fact is mentioned by the same observer,—that of 200 insane persons of suicidal tendencies, 55 showed a history of hereditary insanity in the direct line, and 55 more in collateral lines. Accurate determinations of hereditary correlations for different types of mental disorder should be of much practical value.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

FOREIGN VITAL STATISTICS.

Census of London.—A quinquennial census of the administrative county of London and the city of London is taken this year. A similar census in 1896 proved of such value in the apportionment of rates among the various boroughs as to warrant its repetition. The questions asked will be simple, including only the name, sex, and age of the person and his or her relation to the head of the family. Such a determination of the fundamental facts of population, as the *Standard* points out, is not only needful for the equalization of rates, but “will also be of great value to the Council in other various branches of its work, such as the housing of the working classes, education, locomotion, and public health, and of no less value to the metropolitan borough councils and the guardians of the poor.”

Newsholme on Measles and Diarrhoea.—The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Brighton, England, in 1904, makes several contributions to our knowledge of the etiology of measles. As in other communications, Dr. Newsholme points out the cyclical changes in the prevalence of this disease, epidemics occurring every second or third year, and large epidemics at intervals from five to nine years apart. An important point in the present outbreak is the absence of a single death in a child over six years of age. 270 cases were reported at ages over six, while under six years there were 964 reported cases and 94 deaths. Evidently, the disease is only serious among very young children. From a study of the history of certain families which moved into houses in which cases of measles had occurred earlier in the epidemic, the author concludes that special disinfection in this disease is unnecessary.

The same report contains a table which is interesting because it confirms so well the classic Berlin statistics which show the relation

between milk and the diarrhoeal diseases of children. The Brighton figures are shown in the following table, the percentage of children dying from diarrhoea, classified according to method of feeding, being compared with the percentage of normal children using each food as determined by a house-to-house canvas of 608 infants living in 5,358 houses in the poorer streets of the town. The malign influence of cow's milk and condensed substitutes is strikingly shown.

PERCENTAGE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE FED IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

	608 Living Infants.	87 Infants dying of Diarrhoea.
I. Suckled only	62.8	8.0
Suckled and farinaceous food	10.4	3.4
Suckled and cow's milk	1.8	1.2
Suckled and condensed milk	1.0	1.2
II. Cow's milk only	7.1	32.2
Cow's milk and farinaceous food	9.2	11.5
III. Condensed milk only	3.6	32.2
Condensed milk and farinaceous foods	2.1	3.4
IV. Patent foods only mentioned	1.2	1.2
V. Farinaceous foods only mentioned8	
VI. Unknown		5.7

South African Statistics.—The Report of the Registrar-General of Statistics for Cape of Good Hope promises on first inspection suggestive comparative vital statistics for the varied races represented in that colony. It is apparent, however, that the wise and necessary toleration which British colonial administrators accord to native prejudice interferes seriously with the collection of adequate data. Furthermore the methods of calculation adopted are marked by conscientious ignorance of statistical science. Great labor has been expended in calculating the ratio which the number of deaths or births among one race bears to the total number of deaths, the ratio which the number of deaths in the cities bears to the number in the country for each race, and other irrelevant matters, but death-rates and birth-rates for races and localities are almost wholly ignored, although population data were evidently at hand for their calculation. The birth-rate for the whole colony (29.87) appears normal, and the fact that 30% of the deaths occur under one year and over 40% under five years suggests the need for sanitary reform. Under Marriages a new and important line of statistical

research is opened by a calculation which shows that Tuesday is the favorite day for matrimony, Monday coming next and Friday last!

Statistics of Rhenish Cities.—A cheering contrast to this report is found in the *Jahrbuch des statistischen Amtes der Stadt Elberfeld für 1903 und 1904*, Teil 1. We may equal the Germans in other fields, but their statistics are likely to remain supreme for some time to come. The volume under consideration deals only with vital and property statistics, and includes 91 pages of original tables besides 43 pages of able analysis. For each important factor comparative rate tables are furnished, including, with Elberfeld, the six other large Rhenish cities, Barmen, Essen, Düsseldorf, Cöln, Crefeld, and Aachen. For marriages, births, and deaths these tables cover ten years. In both births and deaths a steady fall is manifest. Essen has had the highest birth-rate, ranging from 44.2 in 1895 to 43.1 in 1904, and Crefeld the lowest, ranging from 32.9 to 26.5. In death-rates, Aachen was highest in 1895, with a rate of 24.7 in 1895, and Cöln led with 21.0 in 1904. Barmen has been lowest, 17.5 in 1895, and 15.5 in 1904. All of the cities except Essen and Aachen exhibit a slightly increasing marriage-rate. The ratio of deaths under one year to births, for Elberfeld, was only 16.9 in 1903, and 15.8 in 1904. The mortality among older children (1-10) was notably affected by a diphtheria epidemic, which in 1903 caused 13 cases in every 1,000 inhabitants. The latter portion of the volume deals with real estate, personal property, animal property, and labor, statistics of the industrial forces of the community being based on the returns made in connection with the state system of Workmen's Insurance.

Yellow Fever at Havana.—The Statement of Mortality for the Month of December, 1905, issued by the Local Board of Health of the city of Havana, contains an interesting study of the yellow fever epidemic of 1905. Since Major Reed and his associates stamped out the disease in 1901, the city has been free from it. Last year infection was introduced in the dock district, apparently by mosquitoes imported from New Orleans. Three cases occurred in October, including a Spaniard employed about the wharves and two Italian actors, who landed from Genoa via New York. In November 14 cases followed, and in December 26, with 24 deaths in all. The vigorous measures of the health authorities proved effective, as shown by the fact that, out of 34 streets in which cases occurred, 22 showed only one house infected, and 5 only two. Of 60 infected houses, 55 showed only one case, each.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.